

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02130 260043Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 260043Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1583
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 02130

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY; FOR AMBASSADOR MCHENRY

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: ADDITIONAL APPROACH TO SOUTH AFRICANS

REF: (A) STATE 131790, (B) CAPE TOWN 1047

1. CONTACT GROUP MAY 25 CONSIDERED THE FOLLOW-UP
APPROACH TO SOUTH AFRICANS SUGGESTED REF A. BRITISH
AND CANADIANS BOTH TOOK FIRM POSITION THAT SUCH AN
APPROACH WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE IN LIGHT OF OUTCOME
OF CAPE TOWN FIVE'S MEETING WITH VORSTER (REF B).
GERMANS AND FRENCH WERE LESS VOCAL BUT EXPRESSED THEIR
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AGREEMENT. IN ADDITION, BRITISH HELD THAT THE
POSITIVE STEPS SUGGESTED FOR SOUTH AFRICANS (REF A) ARE
"TOO FAR-REACHING" AND WOULD HAVE BEEN CERTAIN TO TIP
VORSTER AGAINST FURTHER COOPERATION WITH THE PROPOSAL
EVEN BEFORE HIS REACTION TO MAY 24 DEMARCHE. CANADIANS
AGREED, STATING THAT THE STEPS INCLUDED IN THE TALKING
POINTS FOR USE IN MAY 24 MEETING WITH VORSTER REPRESENTED

ALL THAT SHOULD NOW BE PROPOSED TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS, GERMANS, WITH AGREEMENT OF BRITISH AND AND CANADIANS, ALSO OBJECTED TO THE "REVERSAL OF METHOD OF WORK" REPRESENTED BY DECISION TO SUBMIT PROPOSED APPROACH TO WESTERN FIVE CAPITALS WITHOUT PRIOR DISCUSSION IN CONTACT GROUP. NONE OF THE FOUR APPEARED TO HAVE RECEIVED GUIDANCE FROM THEIR CAPITALS ON REF A SUGGESTIONS.

2. IN THE COURSE OF THIS DISCUSSION BOTH BRITISH AND CANADIANS MOTED THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED REPORTS FROM THEIR EMBASSIES IN CAPE TOWN THAT VORSTER HAD COMPLAINED TO THE FIVE DURING THE MAY 24 MEETING ABOUT THE SUBSTANCE OF AMBASSADOR MCHENRY'S STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS DURING HIS BRIEF STOP-OVER IN JOHANNESBURG. THEIR REPORTS INDICATED THAT VORSTER WAS FURIOUS ABOUT THOSE STATEMENTS, AND BRITISH AND CANADIANS FELT SOUTH AFRICAN SENSITIVITY ON THIS MATTER RENDERED A FOLLOW-UP APPROACH TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS AT THIS TIME IMPRACTICAL.

3. BRITISH ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT IF AMB MCHENRY WERE TO GO ON TO LUSAKA OR LUANDA AND MEET WITH NUJOMA, MCHENRY'S MANDATE, REPRESENTING THE UNITED STATES AND NOT THE FIVE, SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR. WE ASSURED THEM ON THIS POINT AND TOLD THEM THAT WE WOULD INFORM THEM OF MCHENRY'S ITINERARY AS SOON AS WE LEARNED OF IT.

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COMMENT: THIS LATTER CONCERN IS SIMPLY ANOTHER INSTANCE OF LONG-STANDING BRITISH NERVOUSNESS THAT US WILL SAY SOMETHING SUBSTANTIVELY NEW TO NUJOMA WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL OF FIVE. END COMMENT.

4. CONTACT GROUP IS SCHEDULED TO MEET AM MAY 26 TO DISCUSS NEXT STEPS ON NAMIBIA. YOUNG

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